



VMFA(AW)-224 Hazing Policy

Hazing shall not be tolerated in the Bengals. Marines and Sailors joining the Bengals have already passed through their rites of passage in boot camp, officer candidates school, or a US service academy. They shall be treated with dignity and respect. The same holds true for those being promoted or receiving other recognition. The occasion of their promotion is an occasion for celebration, not a time for abuse or harassment. They shall not be pinned, blood striped, or otherwise "initiated" into their new ranks or positions. Additionally, all leaders in the squadron are responsible for knowing

their level of authority and the rules for administering extra military instruction and other corrective actions. These rules shall be adhered to at all times.

Be the most ready when the nation is least ready: We can't accomplish our mission if we can't work together as a team. Hazing destroys trust and divides us against each other, which only helps our adversaries.

Brilliance in the Basics: Promotions, awards, and other opportunities are earned through professional performance, proficiency and personal accomplishments, not through "rites of passage".

Take Care of Each Other: Hazing destroys trust, demeans individual Marines, and devalues their accomplishments. There is no room for it in the Bengal Family.

Keep Our Honor Clean: Hazing is wrong, and it is against the law. Those who participate in it or do not stop it are not living up to the standards and values of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

Reporting: Any Bengal who has been the victim or witness of a hazing incident shall report the incident via the chain of command or Request Mast. Those making reports shall have no fear of reprisal. Reports shall be kept anonymous, unless requested otherwise. Those who witness a hazing event, occurring or about to occur, should intercede to stop the event, and report the event as stated above.

Primary Reference: MCO 1700.28B (Hazing)

Semper Fidelis,

M. P. SHAND,
Commanding Officer, VMFA(AW)-224

30 October 2014